

The AFCARS Report

Preliminary FY 2002 Estimates as of August 2004 (9)

How many children were in foster care on September 30, 2002? 532,000

SOURCE: Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) data submitted for the FY 2002, 10/1/01 through 9/30/02.

NOTES: Data from both the regular and revised submissions received by August, 2004 are included in the estimates. Some percentages do not total 100% and/or the estimated numbers do not add up to the total number in the category due to rounding.

What were the ages of the children in foster care?

Mean Yrs	10.2	
Median Yrs	10.8	
Under 1 Yr	5%	24,290
1 thru 5 Yrs	24%	128,947
6 thru 10 Yrs	22%	116,802
11 thru 15 Yrs	30%	158,290
16 thru 18 Yrs	17%	92,091
19 + Yrs	2%	10,321

What were the lengths of stay in foster care?

Mean Months	32	
Median Months	18	
Less than 1 Month	5%	23,948
1 to 5 Months	18%	94,399
6 to 11 Months	16%	84,707
12 to 17 Months	12%	62,036
18 to 23 Months	8%	45,008
24 to 29 Months	7%	36,236
30 to 35 Months	5%	27,196
3 to 4 Yrs	13%	70,754
5 Yrs or More	16%	87,694

What were the placement settings of children in foster care?

Pre-Adoptive Home	5%	24,960
Foster Family Home (Relative)	23%	124,036
Foster Family Home (Non-Relative)	46%	243,505
Group Home	9%	45,464
Institution	10%	54,472
Supervised Independent Living	1%	5,676
Runaway	2%	9,459
Trial Home Visit	4%	18,809

What were the case goals of the children in foster care?

Reunify with Parent(s) or Principal Caretaker(s)	45%	238,331
Live with Other Relative(s)	5%	26,479
Adoption	21%	109,581
Long Term Foster Care	9%	46,119
Emancipation	6%	33,581
Guardianship	3%	16,389
Case Plan Goal Not Yet Established	10%	52,450

Children in Foster Care on September 30, 2002 (continued)

What was the race/ethnicity of the children in foster care?

AI/AN Non-Hispanic	2%	9,792
Asian Non-Hispanic	1%	3,423
Black Non-Hispanic	37%	195,040
Hawaiian/PI Non-Hispanic	0%	1,465
Hispanic	17%	89,177
White Non-Hispanic	39%	205,478
Unknown/Unable to Determine	3%	14,432
Two or More Races Non-Hispanic	2%	12,986

What was the gender of the children in foster care?

Male	52%	278,916
Female	48%	252,932

NOTE: Using U.S. Bureau of the Census standards, children of Hispanic origin may be of any race. Beginning in FY 2000, children could be identified with more than one race designation.

How many children entered foster care during FY 2002? 303,000

What were the ages of the children who entered care during FY 2002?

Mean Yrs	8.5	
Median Yrs	8.6	
Under 1 Year	14%	41,874
1 thru 5 Years	26%	77,623
6 thru 10 Years	20%	61,555
11 thru 15 Years	29%	87,416
16 thru 18 Years	11%	34,046
19 or more Years	0%	208

What was the race/ethnicity of the children who entered care during FY 2002?

AI/AN Non-Hispanic	2%	6,889
Asian Non-Hispanic	1%	2,855
Black Non-Hispanic	28%	83,585
Hawaiian/PI Non-Hispanic	0%	1,110
Hispanic	17%	51,330
White Non-Hispanic	46%	139,861
Unknown/Unable to Determine	3%	8,555
Two or More Races Non-Hispanic	3%	8,332

NOTE: Using U.S. Bureau of the Census standards, children of Hispanic origin may be of any race. Beginning in FY 2000, children could be identified with more than one race designation.

How many children exited foster care during FY 2002? 281,000

What were the ages of the children who exited care during FY 2002?

Mean Years	10.1	
Median Years	10.2	
Under 1 Year	4%	12,059
1 thru 5 Years	27%	76,998
6 thru 10 Years	22%	61,089
11 thru 15 Years	24%	67,388
16 thru 18 Years	20%	56,360
19 or more Years	2%	6,365

What were the lengths of stay of the children who exited foster care during FY 2002?

Mean Months	21.7	
Median Months	11.7	
Less than 1 Month	19%	52,819
1 to 5 Months	17%	46,751
6 to 11 Months	15%	43,186
12 to 17 Months	11%	32,291
18 to 23 Months	8%	22,364
24 to 29 Months	6%	16,776
30 to 35 Months	4%	12,464
3 to 4 Years	10%	28,302
5 or More Years	9%	24,434

What was the race/ethnicity of the children who exited care during FY 2002?

AI/AN Non-Hispanic	2%	6,357
Asian Non-Hispanic	1%	2,739
Black Non-Hispanic	30%	84,366
Hawaiian/PI Non-Hispanic	0%	968
Hispanic	16%	44,931
White Non-Hispanic	45%	125,114
Unknown/Unable to Determine	3%	8,686
Two or More Races Non-Hispanic	3%	7,443

NOTE: Using U.S. Bureau of the Census standards, children of Hispanic origin may be of any race. Beginning in FY 2000, children could be identified with more than one race designation.

What were the outcomes for the children exiting foster care during FY 2002?

Reunify with Parent(s) or Principal Caretaker(s)	54%	152,757
Live with Other Relative(s)	10%	27,750
Adoption	17%	48,871
Emancipation	7%	19,509
Guardianship	4%	10,136
Transfer to Another Agency	2%	6,797
Runaway	2%	4,695
Death of Child	0%	530

NOTE: Deaths are attributable to a variety of causes including medical conditions, accidents and homicide.

How many children were waiting to be adopted on September 30, 2002? 126,000

NOTES: Waiting children are identified as children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parental rights have been terminated. Children 16 years old and older whose parental rights have been terminated and who have a goal of emancipation have been excluded from the estimate.

What is the gender distribution of the waiting children?

Male	53%	66,472
Female	47%	59,509

How old were the waiting children when they were removed from their parents or caretakers?

Mean Years	4.9	
Median Years	4.2	
Less than 1 Year	25%	31,659
1 thru 5 Years	37%	46,832
6 thru 10 Years	28%	35,572
11 thru 15 Years	9%	11,579
16 thru 18 Years	0%	343

How many months have the waiting children been in continuous foster care?

Mean Months	44	
Median Months	35	
Less than 1 month	0%	533
1 thru 5 months	4%	4,428
6 thru 11 months	7%	9,266
12 thru 17 months	10%	13,062
18 thru 23 months	11%	13,691
24 thru 29 months	11%	13,537
30 thru 35 months	9%	10,945
36 thru 59 months	24%	29,627
60 or more months	25%	30,904

What is the racial/ethnic distribution of the waiting children?

AI/AN Non-Hispanic	2%	2,146
Asian Non-Hispanic	0%	533
Black Non-Hispanic	42%	52,935
Hawaiian/PI Non-Hispanic	0%	336
Hispanic	13%	16,324
White Non-Hispanic	36%	45,410
Unknown/Unable to Determine	4%	4,751
Two or More Races Non-Hispanic	3%	3,547

NOTE: Using U.S. Bureau of the Census standards, children of Hispanic origin may be of any race. Beginning in FY 2000, children could be identified with more than one race designation.

How old were the children on September 30, 2002?

Mean Years	8.5	
Median Years	8.5	
Less than 1 Year	3%	4,224
1 thru 5 Years	32%	40,204
6 thru 10 Years	30%	37,740
11 thru 15 Years	29%	36,310
16 thru 18 Years	5%	6,393

Where were the waiting children living on September 30, 2002?

Pre-Adoptive Home	16%	20,732
Foster Family Home (Relative)	16%	20,652
Foster Family Home (Non-Relative)	55%	69,448
Group Home	4%	4,837
Institution	7%	8,236
Supervised Independent Living	0%	151
Runaway	0%	627
Trial Home Visit	0%	437

**How many children in foster care had their parental rights terminated for all living parents?
67,000**

As of September 30, 2002, how many months had elapsed since the parental rights of these foster children were terminated?

Mean Months	25
Median Months	16

How many children were adopted from the public foster care system in FY 2002? 53,000

SOURCE: Adoptions can be reported to the AFCARS adoption database at any time after the adoption has been finalized. TAR 9 includes adoptions finalized in FY 2002 reported in regular and revised submissions by August 2004.

NOTES: The number of adoptions reported here do not equal the number of adoption discharges reported under foster care exits because the adoptions reported here include adoptions of some children who were not in foster care but received other support from the public agency. In addition, states have historically under reported adoption discharges. In contrast, states tend to more accurately report the adoptions to the AFCARS adoption database because those are the adoptions used to calculate adoption incentive awards. Some percentages do not total 100% and/or the estimated numbers do not add up to the total number in the category due to rounding.

What is the gender distribution of the children adopted from the public foster care system?

Male	50%	26,587
Female	50%	26,401

How old were the children when they were adopted from the public foster care system?

Mean Years	7.0
Median Years	6.3

Less than 1 Year	2%	984
1 thru 5 Years	46%	24,412
6 thru 10 Years	32%	16,916
11 thru 15 Years	18%	9,313
16 thru 18 Years	2%	1,309
19 or more Years	0%	42

What proportion of the children adopted are receiving an adoption subsidy?

Yes	88%	46,826
No	11%	5,849

What is the racial/ethnic distribution of the children adopted from the public foster care system?

AI/AN Non-Hispanic	1%	685
Asian Non-Hispanic	1%	309
Black Non-Hispanic	36%	18,828
Hawaiian/PI Non-Hispanic	0%	169
Hispanic	16%	8,586
White Non-Hispanic	39%	20,833
Unknown/Unable to Determine	3%	1,745
Two or More Races Non-Hispanic	3%	1,831

NOTE: Using U.S. Bureau of the Census standards, children of Hispanic origin may be of any race. Beginning in FY 2000, children could be identified with more than one race designation.

How many months did it take after termination of parental rights for the children to be adopted?

Mean Months	16	
Median Months	12	
Less than 1 Month	4%	1,894
1thru 5 Months	18%	9,489
6 thru 11 Months	27%	14,268
12 thru 17 Months	19%	9,913
18 thru 23 Months	11%	5,676
24 thru 29 Months	7%	3,556
30 thru 35 Months	4%	2,288
3 thru 4 Years	6%	3,249
5 or more Years	2%	1,062

Children Adopted in FY 2002 (Continued)

What is the family structure of the child's adoptive family?			What was the relationship of the adoptive parents to the child prior to the adoption?		
Married Couple	66%	35,033	Non-Relative	15%	7,950
Unmarried Couple	2%	901	Foster Parent	61%	32,489
Single Female	30%	15,794	Step-Parent	0%	106
Single Male	2%	1,272	Other Relative	24%	12,508